

07-100



TALLASSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

123 N. Ann Avenue Tallassee, AL 36078
Phone: 334-283-5660 Fax: 334-252-0288

Matt Missildine, Fire Chief



July 24, 2007

Re: Federal Communications Commission Rule Change

Document ID: FCC-2007-0133-0001

Document Title: Amendment of Part 90 of the Commissions Rules

To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed rule change restricting paging operations on VHF public safety frequencies, should it become effective, would be tantamount to eliminating the 911 systems in our area. The City of Tallassee maintains several FCC licenses for frequencies used in various departments throughout the City and the Fire Department uses one of these for all radio traffic as well as paging.

Virtually all fire departments in our area, whom operate on VHF frequencies, also page on their assigned frequency. In all instances that I am familiar with, the convenience and interoperability gained by this far outweighs any minor inconvenience that may be caused by the occasional page being transmitted. Furthermore, any blanket type change away from this system would be detrimental to the public's safety in our area due to the decrease reliability and increased complexity of the systems that would then be required.

In reading the document proposing the rule change, it seems that some restrictions may very well be needed in certain instances. However, I strongly urge further research to be completed before any decision is made that would effect fire departments in the State of Alabama. The Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs, <http://www.alfirechiefs.com/index.htm>, and the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, <http://www.aavfd.org/>, would be more than willing to work with the FCC on this issue. These two organizations also represent virtually all of the fire departments in the state, thereby giving the FCC a more comprehensive overview of the effects that a rule change such as this would have.

Sincerely,

Matt Missildine, Chief
Tallasse Fire Department